Appointment of judicial officers in Subordinate Judiciary are made by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts under articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution.

State Governments and the High Courts have been addressed periodically on the need to fill up all vacant posts, and create more posts where necessary. Hence, no time frame can be fixed for filling up the vacancies.

(c) In accordance with the procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts, the Chief Justice of a High Court is expected to initiate recommendation for filling up vacancies in consultation with the collegium of Judges. On the part of the Government of India, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are periodically requested to initiate proposals for appointment of Judges in respective High Courts.

One of the items on the National Agenda for Governance of the National Democratic Alliance is to constitute a National Judicial Commission which will, *inter alia*, recommend judicial appointments in the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India. The proposal, however, would require an amendment to the Constitution.

Acquisition of second hand vessels without proper assessment

3751. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India had acquired two second hand vessels during 1994 without proper assessment of their condition which resulted in a loss of Rs. 40 crore ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the purchase of these vessels by SCI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India had acquired two second hand vessels during 1994 based on technical assessment of the vessels before purchase.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.